



Langley Research Center Safety Alert

SA-13-92

Date: November 12, 1992

TO: All NASA Employees
All Contractors On/Off Site

FROM: 429/Safety Manager, Head, Risk Management Branch, SSQRD
293/Occupational Health Officer, Occupational Health
Services Office, HRMD

SUBJECT: Bloodborne Pathogens

On December 6, 1991, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued its final regulation on occupational exposure to bloodborne diseases. This standard is known as the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1030. OSHA has determined that employees face a significant health risk as the result of occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials because they may contain bloodborne pathogens. These pathogens include HBV which causes Hepatitis B, a serious liver disease, and HIV, which cause Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). OSHA further concludes that this hazard can be minimized or eliminated using a combination of engineering and work practice controls, personal protective clothing and equipment, training, medical surveillance, hepatitis B vaccination, signs and labels, and other provisions to eliminate or reduce exposure.

At LaRC the only personnel who are directly affected by this standard are the Clinic and the Fire Department. Both of these parties have initiated action to comply with all areas of the standard and have been audited as to their completeness. All other employees at LaRC are not directly affected. In the event that they do come in contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, they should contact the Clinic for further direction.

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